

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please withdraw without prejudice original claims 1-10 and 26-54 from prosecution in the present case. Please also add new claims 55-57. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a claim listing including the status and text of all claims (as currently presented) appears below. In making these amendments, no new matter is added.

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

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6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system featuring integrated and automated on-line financial aid features to a user, wherein said web-based application comprises:

a first information collection service for obtaining requested personal and financial information about a given student; and

a financial aid estimation service for generating a predicted amount of monetary aid that may be available for the student to use for education-related expenses, whereby the predicted amount of monetary aid generated via said financial aid estimation service is based on information obtained via said first information collection service.

12. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 11, wherein said web-based application further comprises a registration service for applying for and receiving a user identification element, and whereby said user identification element is utilized for obtaining future

access to said web-based application, including various features and services thereof.

13. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 12, further comprising a second information collection service, for obtaining additionally requested information related to personal demographics, financial matters, and educational endeavors of a given student.

14. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 13, further comprising a federal link service for electronically relaying federal aid eligibility information between the web-based system and selected government agencies, wherein one of said selected government agencies corresponds to the United States Department of Education.

15. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 11, further comprising a federal link service for electronically relaying federal aid eligibility information between the web-based system and processing systems of selected government agencies, wherein one of said selected government agencies corresponds to the United States Department of Education.

16. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 15, further comprising a student file establishment service for generating a hard copy of selected information pertaining to a given student.

17. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 16, wherein selected information obtained via said student file establishment service comprises information obtained via said first information collection service and said second information collection service, federal aid eligibility information obtained via said federal link service, and enrollment information about a given student obtained from an educational institution.

18. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 14, further comprising a file processing service for reviewing obtained information about a given student and for determining

eligibility for various types of financial aid that are potentially available to a student.

19. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 17, further comprising a file processing service for reviewing information collected about a given student via said file establishment service and for determining eligibility for various types of financial aid that are potentially available for a student.

20. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 19, further comprising a loan application service for electronically relaying master promissory note (MPN) documentation between a system user and a loan guarantor, wherein said loan guarantor is characterized as one who provides monetary assistance to a student for education-related expenses.

21. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 15, wherein said federal aid link service provides links at the web-based system for directly connecting a user to a FAFSA on-line web-based location and to an IRS on-line web-based location.

22. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 19, further comprising an integrated feature that automatically updates the web-based application, particularly updating information related to received documents and progress of financial aid processing.

23. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 21, further comprising a reporting system service available to a user of the web-based application, for obtaining updated information about the financial aid system and progress involved with said file processing service thereof.

24. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 19, further comprising a communications service for automatically generating and sending an electronic communication from a student or educational institution to a student financial aid processor.

25. (Original) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 12, wherein the user identification element received via said registration service is utilized as an electronic signature for affirming various statements presented in accordance with the multi-level financial aid system.

26. (Withdrawn)

27. (Withdrawn)

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55. (New) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 11, further comprising a service for obtaining a copy of an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) document for the given student.

56. (New) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 55, further comprising a service for obtaining enrollment verification information for the given student from one or more specified educational institutions.

57. (New) A web-based application for providing a multi-level financial aid system as in claim 56, wherein selected portions of the information obtained from said first information collection service, said service for obtaining a copy of an ISIR document and said service for obtaining enrollment verification information are reviewed by a financial aid processing center.